

Toledo, Ohio, poured \$120 million into a Colorado factory that now churns out one billion beer bottles a year.

But most of this growth is concentrated in a relatively narrow array of sectors, such as food, rail equipment and building materials, according to Commerce Department data. The cement industry, for instance, is planning to add 18 new plants at a total cost of \$3.6 billion over the next four years.

One measure of new factory construction—investment in industrial structures—rose last year to \$18.7 billion, up more than 15% from 2004. “But this spending is still just a shadow of what it used to be,” says Tom Runiewicz, an industrial economist at Global Insight, a Lexington, Mass., economic consulting firm. In 1998, this type of investment was about \$43.7 billion, he said. It has become far more common for companies to pour money into upgrading existing plants to make them more productive. This helps explain how, although U.S. industrial production has recovered, the urge to build big new factories remains relatively weak, he says. “Our existing plants are just far more efficient.”

USG Corp., for instance, is rebuilding one plant in Virginia and putting up a new one in Pennsylvania. The Chicago maker of wallboard says the new plants will use machinery that allows them to make wallboard far faster. “What we make is big, heavy, and relatively inexpensive,” says Robert Williams, a USG spokesman, “so usually, you make it close to where you want to sell it.” Indeed, USG has 40 plants scattered around the U.S. and has no plans to reduce its manufacturing footprint.

One factor that gets lost is the size of individual plants. Mr. Meckstroth believes many of the operations that are dying off are smaller companies that have had trouble adapting to the rise of import competition and other competitive forces. “But the bigger companies are surviving, because they have the size and scale,” he says. “They can afford to put in the new lines or move operations overseas themselves if necessary.”

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, this is a classic liberal amendment that increases the size of Government, increases taxes on the American people. A much more appropriate way to do this, if we believe CDBG is important, is vote for the Santorum amendment which makes that a priority but does so within the caps. So it has to compete with other programs that we as a Congress can declare as a priority by using the Santorum amendment.

To follow the Murray proposal is to increase spending by \$1.3 billion and increase taxes by \$1.3 billion; grow the Government, grow the taxpayer. For the American people, that is not the right way to do this.

I yield back my remaining time.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

Mr. GREGG. I ask unanimous consent the yeas and nays be deemed in order for all the amendments that will be called up in this group.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment No. 3063.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant journal clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) would vote “yea.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 45, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 43 Leg.]

YEAS—45

| | | |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| Akaka | Feinstein | Mikulski |
| Baucus | Harkin | Murray |
| Bayh | Inouye | Nelson (FL) |
| Biden | Jeffords | Nelson (NE) |
| Bingaman | Johnson | Obama |
| Boxer | Kennedy | Pryor |
| Byrd | Kerry | Reed |
| Cantwell | Kohl | Reid |
| Carper | Landrieu | Rockefeller |
| Clinton | Lautenberg | Salazar |
| Conrad | Leahy | Sarbanes |
| Dodd | Levin | Schumer |
| Dorgan | Lieberman | Stabenow |
| Durbin | Lincoln | Voinovich |
| Feingold | Menendez | Wyden |

NAYS—53

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Alexander | DeWine | McCain |
| Allard | Dole | McConnell |
| Allen | Domenici | Murkowski |
| Bennett | Ensign | Roberts |
| Bond | Enzi | Santorum |
| Brownback | Frist | Sessions |
| Bunning | Graham | Shelby |
| Burns | Grassley | Smith |
| Burr | Gregg | Snowe |
| Chafee | Hagel | Specter |
| Chambliss | Hatch | Stevens |
| Coburn | Hutchison | Sununu |
| Cochran | Inhofe | Talent |
| Collins | Isakson | Thomas |
| Cornyn | Kyl | Thune |
| Craig | Lott | Vitter |
| Crapo | Lugar | Warner |
| DeMint | Martinez | |

NOT VOTING—2

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Coleman | Dayton |
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The amendment (No. 3063) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. I move to reconsider the vote and move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO ESCORT THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort Her Excellency Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, the President of Liberia, into the House Chamber for a joint meeting today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3050

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided on the Santorum amendment.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, the amendment that was just offered by Senator MURRAY was defeated. I hope my colleagues will support this amendment which does not raise the cap but, in fact, expresses a strong sentiment, a strong bipartisan sentiment that the CDBG Program should be funded more robustly. It is at \$1.3 billion. It is offset by the 920 account. But it does express a very important sentiment that this is a high-priority program and that the appropriators should allocate more resources than the President did in his budget recommendation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it is unfortunate the Senate just defeated the amendment that would actually add real money to CDBG and allow our communities across the Nation to invest in the critical infrastructure to bring hope and opportunity back.

The amendment we are now going to vote on is a sham, and I refuse to be part of a continuing sham that says to all of us that we are going to have CDBG money. Our recipients deserve a lot more. This amendment is for show, as I quote from the Wall Street Journal of today: “. . . for show since no money has been added above the cap”—leaving us, next October, November, in the appropriations bill to either fund CDBG or cut transit and Amtrak, which I know is important to many Senators, and many other critical housing programs.

I urge my colleagues to say no and to put a stop to this continuing sham of amendments that do nothing for our communities that deserve a lot better.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, do I have any time left on my amendment?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) is necessarily absent.

I further announce that if present and voting, the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) would vote “nay.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 38, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 44 Leg.)

YEAS—60

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Alexander | Dole | Murkowski |
| Allard | Domenici | Nelson (FL) |
| Allen | Enzi | Nelson (NE) |
| Bennett | Frist | Pryor |
| Bond | Graham | Roberts |
| Brownback | Grassley | Rockefeller |
| Bunning | Gregg | Santorum |
| Burns | Hagel | Sessions |
| Burr | Hatch | Shelby |
| Byrd | Hutchison | Smith |
| Chafee | Isakson | Snowe |
| Chambliss | Johnson | Specter |
| Clinton | Kyl | Stevens |
| Cochran | Landrieu | Sununu |
| Collins | Lieberman | Talent |
| Cornyn | Lincoln | Thomas |
| Craig | Lugar | Thune |
| Crapo | Martinez | Vitter |
| DeMint | McCain | Voinovich |
| DeWine | McConnell | Warner |

NAYS—38

| | | |
|----------|------------|----------|
| Akaka | Ensign | Lott |
| Baucus | Feingold | Menendez |
| Bayh | Feinstein | Mikulski |
| Biden | Harkin | Murray |
| Bingaman | Inhofe | Obama |
| Boxer | Inouye | Reed |
| Cantwell | Jeffords | Reid |
| Carper | Kennedy | Salazar |
| Coburn | Kerry | Sarbanes |
| Conrad | Kohl | Schumer |
| Dodd | Lautenberg | Stabenow |
| Dorgan | Leahy | Wyden |
| Durbin | Levin | |

NOT VOTING—2

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Coleman | Dayton |
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The amendment (No. 3050) was agreed to.

JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, in accordance with the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess for the purpose of attending a joint meeting with the House of Representatives to hear the very distinguished President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:50 p.m., took a recess, and the Senate, preceded by its Secretary, Emily J. Reynolds, and its Assistant Sergeant at Arms, Lynne Halbrooks, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear an address delivered by Her Excellency, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia.

(For the address delivered by the President of Liberia, see today's proceedings in the House of Representatives.)

At 2:59 p.m., the Senate, reassembled and was called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MARTINEZ).

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3056

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The next amendment is the Stabenow amendment No. 3056. There is 2 minutes of debate equally divided on the amendment.

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in be-

ginning to fix the issue of connecting our radios, radio interoperability. Last December, the 9/11 Commission gave us failing grades in this area, as well as other areas. Back in November of 2003, the White House Office of Management and Budget said there were insufficient funds to do what needs to be done in terms of communications interoperability. They said it would take at least \$16 billion to do this right.

My amendment would provide \$5 billion to jump-start what is happening now. Our esteemed chairman of the Budget Committee has spoken about the fact that there is \$1 billion or \$2 billion available now, but that simply is not enough. That is not enough to do it as quickly as we need to do this.

Right now, homeland security grants also in this budget are being cut. We are seeing fewer police officers on the streets. We have not done what we need to do regarding radios and communications, and this simply is not good enough.

My amendment says we can do better, and it will provide a jump-start to do so.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise to express my appreciation to the Senate for accepting the Kohl-Snowe-Stabenow-DeWine-Lieberman amendment fully funding the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, for fiscal year 2007 at \$106 million. I am a long-time supporter of the MEP program and believe manufacturing is crucial to the U.S. economy. American manufacturers are a cornerstone of the American economy and embody the best in American values. A healthy manufacturing sector is key to better jobs, rising productivity, and higher standards of living in the United States.

Small and medium-sized manufacturers face unprecedented challenges in today's global economy. If it isn't China pirating our technologies and promising a low-wage workforce, it is soaring health care and energy costs that cut into profits. Manufacturers today are seeking ways to level the playing field.

One way to do that is through the MEP program. MEP offers resources such as organized workshops and consulting projects to manufacturers; these allow the manufacturers to streamline operations, integrate new technologies, shorten production times and lower costs. In Wisconsin, three of our largest corporations—John Deere, Harley-Davidson, and Oshkosh Truck—are working with Wisconsin MEP centers to develop domestic supply chains. I am proud to say that, thanks to MEP, these companies found it more profitable to work with small and medium sized Wisconsin firms than to look overseas for cheap labor.

You would be hard pressed to find another program that has produced the results that MEP has. In fiscal year 2004, MEP clients reported 43,624 new or retained workers, sales of \$4.532 billion, cost savings of \$721 million, and plant and equipment investments of \$941 million.

The Senate, in accepting this amendment, clearly recognizes the importance of manufacturing and the role it plays in our everyday lives. Unfortunately, the same can not be said for the current administration. The President's fiscal year 2007 budget request for MEP was \$46.3 million, a 56 percent decrease from the \$106 million appropriated for fiscal year 2006. Once again, it will be up to my colleagues and I in Congress to see to it that MEP is fully funded for fiscal year 2007. In an effort to invest in the future of manufacturing, I worked with Senator SMITH and Senator DEWINE to introduce the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005 which would fund manufacturing related programs including MEP and the Advanced Technology Program—for 3 years.

Manufacturing is an integral part of a web of inter-industry relationships that create a stronger economy. Manufacturing sells goods to other sectors in the economy and, in turn, buys products and services from them. Manufacturing spurs demand for everything from raw materials to intermediate components to software to financial, legal, health, accounting, transportation, and other services in the course of doing business.

The future of manufacturing in the United States will be largely determined by how well small and medium-sized manufacturers cope with the changes in today's global economy. To be successful, manufacturers need state-of-the-art technologies to craft products more efficiently, a skilled workforce to operate those technologies, and a commitment from the government to provide the resources to allow manufacturers to remain competitive.

At a time when economic recovery, supply chain reliability for consumer and defense goods, and global competitiveness are national priorities, I believe MEP continues to be a wise investment. I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Budget Committee for accepting this amendment and recognizing the importance of the MEP program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, the Stabenow amendment would pencil in \$5 billion for interoperable radio equipment into the budget resolution but provides no money for the first responders. But when the junior Senator from Michigan has been given opportunity to vote for real money for police and firefighters, she has repeatedly voted no. Not only has she voted no, she actively worked to kill funding for the first responders.

The Senate budget reconciliation bill last year included \$1 billion in hard dollars for grants to States and local governments for new interoperable radio equipment. Michigan would have received a portion of that money for its police and firefighters, but the Senator